

Class of '87 roster shows 172 National Merit scholars

by Stephanie M. Koss

Battalion Staff
The freshman class at Texas A&M this year boasted 172 National Merit Scholars, while the total number in the student body is 545 — which may be a new record among public institutions.

Dr. Lawrence Cress, the director of the Texas A&M honors program, says that the official figures from the National Merit

Scholarship Corporation will be released later this year, but that they usually coincide with the individual school's figures.

Last year, Texas A&M ranked sixth nationally with 445 National Merit scholars, but it ranked first among public institutions. Harvard led the top five with 987, and the next four were all private institutions, including Rice University.

Among Texas schools, Rice ranked third nationally with 554

merit scholars and the University of Texas ranked eighth with 413, making it second ranked among public institutions behind Texas A&M. Baylor ranked 20th nationally with 196.

In 1980, Texas A&M had 194 merit scholars and was ranked 14th nationally, but in the 1981-82 academic year, the school gained more scholars than any other school. The number in the total student body went from 235 to 325.

In an interview with The Houston Post, Texas A&M University President Frank E. Vandiver, said the University was able to compete with other universities in obtaining merit scholars because of the scholarships they were able to offer.

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. is a non-profit organization based in Evanston, Ill. It finances about 1,800 scholarships annually valued at \$1.8 million.

Local boys to dine with Aggie athletes

by Wanda Winkler

Battalion Staff
The MSC Black Awareness Committee is sponsoring its first All Sports Camp on Saturday for boys, in grades five through eight, from the Bryan-College Station area. The boys and four committee members will dine in Cain Hall with athletes and then attend the Texas A&M-Oklahoma State football game.

"It's a time for them to meet their heroes," Guinise Marshall, BAC chairman, said. The sports camp also will offer eight boys the chance to mingle with Texas A&M baseball and basketball players.

Four boys will attend a home baseball game and another four will attend a home basketball game. The committee hopes to make the sports camp a tradition for boys selected by churches in the Bryan-College Station area.

BAC, formed in the summer of 1970, offers programs

designed to create better understanding of black heritage and culture. The committee also serves as a link between Texas A&M students and the Bryan-College Station community.

"I have a very positive outlook this year because we've more than doubled" from fall 1982, Marshall said. "There's more cohesion between the students than I've ever seen." Black Awareness has planned other activities for the fall semester, including its annual Gospelfest to be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 in Rudder Theater. The event will feature Voices of Praise, the BAC gospel choir. A soloist and five or six gospel choirs also will perform.

Another upcoming event will feature Charles E. King, founder of Atlanta Urban Crisis Center, and his program "Shouting Down Racism." The four-hour seminar will begin at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 in Rudder Theater.

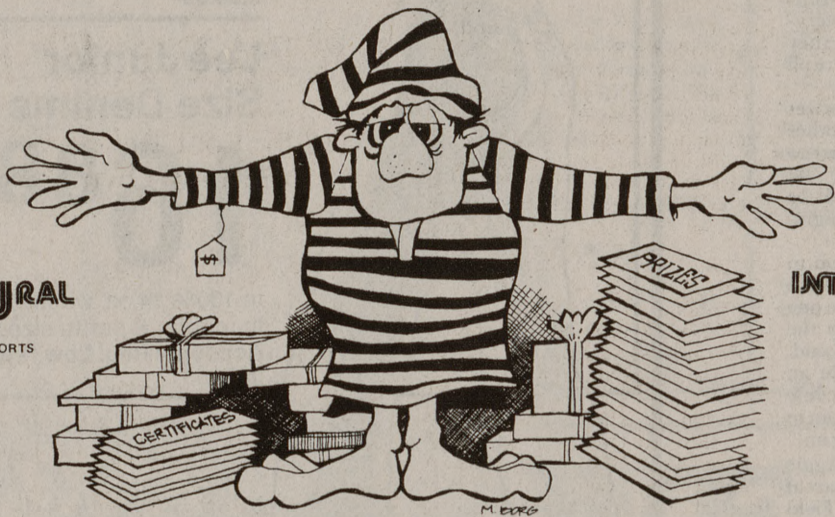
Seminar participants will include Dr. John J. Koldus,

vice president for student services, and James R. Reynolds, director of the Memorial Student Center. At least 30 people "who are in a position to make an impact on racism" will participate in the program, Marshall said. "It's something Texas A&M has never done before."

An orientation also will be held Wednesday for committee members participating in a tutorial program for children of all ages in the Bryan-College Station area. The committee soon will be offering the 90-minute tutorial program once a week at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Bryan. For more information call the BAC office at 845-1515.

BAC, with at least 85 active members, meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Meetings take place in Rudder Tower from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The meeting room will vary.

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CARBOE'S RESTAURANT

Ultimate team soars high

by Jamie Hataway

Battalion Reporter
Students and faculty members who like running and

throwing a frisbee should check out the Texas A&M Ultimate Team, secretary-treasurer of the team Scott Gunn says.

The team will participate in a tournament at North State University on Saturday and Sunday.

The men's team recently placed third in a tournament in Austin.

Although the Ultimate Team has been organized since 1978, this is only its second year as an extramural organization, Gunn said.

"We went extramural to defray travel costs," he said. The Ultimate Team plays an unnamed sport on a field the size of a football field.

"It's a run, throw and catch sport," Gunn said. Two teams of seven players each, line up on opposite ends of the field. The team with the frisbee tries to advance up the field while throwing the frisbee to team members.

The players can't run with the frisbee or hand it off. Only one player catches the frisbee. The pivot foot is set and the player can't move that foot until the frisbee has been thrown another team member.

It's an instant turnover if the frisbee hits the ground or a player goes out-of-bounds with it. The objective of the opposing team is to intercept the frisbee and knock it down.

A team scores a point when a player catches the frisbee in the end zone. The number of points in a game is agreed upon before the game. An average game played to about 13 points.

"You can't hit the person who has the frisbee," Gunn said. "You don't cheat," he said. "You really don't cheat. That's one way it's a different sport. We have a real good relationship with most of the teams we play."

Gunn, who is teaching anatomy here this semester, said any student with good academic standing or any faculty member can join the team. Because many men are coming out to play, an A and B possibly will be required, he said, but more women are needed. The women's team has only about nine players, he said, it's difficult to let them rest during games because there are only two extra women players, he said.

The Ultimate Team practices four days a week from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. — on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on the field by the main campus entrance and on Sundays on the field.

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